

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



In reply refer to
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June 20 1956

Dear Mr. Dulles:

The Department has recently received a report from the United States representative on the Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union (I.T.U.). This report summarizes the results of the Council's activities at its Eleventh Session, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, April 21 - May 19, 1956.

One of the most significant items in the report is the date for the next International Radio Conference--known by the I.T.U. as an "Ordinary Administrative Radio Conference". This was tentatively set by the Council for the latter part of 1959, subject to review by the Council at its 1957 annual session. When the Council proposed the tentative date of 1959 for the next International Radio Conference, the United States, along with the other Members of the I.T.U., was asked for its comments. The Department of State at that time advocated concurring in the proposed date on the basis that the subject would be before the Council at its 1957 session, and the United States could then more effectively make its position known. However, this view did not prevail and, as a result, the United States did not support the Council's tentative proposal for convening the next International Radio Conference during the latter part of 1959. The great majority of the Members of the I.T.U., however, did not share the United States view in this regard, and the vote was 60 in favor of the Council's proposal to 4 against, with two of the four votes against being those of the United States and the United States Territories, and the other two votes against being those of Korea and India, both of which wanted the conference at an earlier date than 1959.

Since

The Honorable

Allen W. Dulles, Director,

Central Intelligence Agency.

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Since there appears to be no international support whatever for convening the next International Radio Conference later than 1959, the Department considers it advisable to plan accordingly and to begin, in the near future, the work of preparing the United States positions for the next International Radio Conference and for the next I.T.U. Plenipotentiary Conference. The date for the Plenipotentiary Conference has also been tentatively set for the latter part of 1959.

It will be appreciated, therefore, if you will inform the Department, as soon as practicable, of the names of those persons within your Agency with whom it should correspond initially regarding the preparatory work in question. The Department expects to call a general organizational meeting in the near future so that the work of preparing the United States positions for the next Plenipotentiary Conference and for the next International Radio Conference can get started. In this connection the Department will communicate directly with those representatives you nominate in response to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Thorsten V. Kalijarvi
Acting Deputy Under Secretary
for Economic Affairs